AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

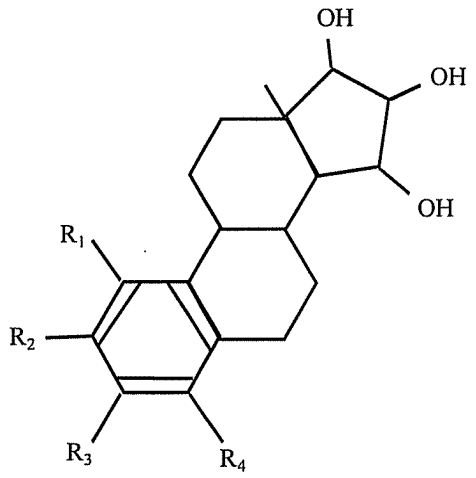
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1-24 (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) A method of treating or ~~preventing~~ prophylactically treating estrogen-sensitive tumours in a mammal, said estrogen-sensitive tumours being selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, uterine cancer, ovarian cancer, endometriosis, uterine fibroids, benign prostatic hyperplasia and melanoma, comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an estrogenic component selected from the group consisting of:

substances represented by the following formula



in which formula R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 independently are a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group with 1-5 carbon atoms;

precursors capable of liberating a substance according to the aforementioned formula ~~when used in the present method.~~ which precursors are derivatives of the present estrogen substances, wherein the hydrogen atom of at least one of the hydroxyl groups has been substituted by an acyl radical of a hydrocarbon carboxylic, sulfonic acid or sulfamic acid of

1-25 carbon atoms; tetrahydrofuranyl; tetrahydropyranyl; or a straight or branched chain glycosydic residue containing 1-20 glycosidic units per residue; and

mixtures of one or more of the aforementioned substances and/or precursors;

said method not comprising administration of a GnRH composition.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein no more than 3 of R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 are hydrogen atoms.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein R_3 represents a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein at least 3 of the groups R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 represent hydrogen atoms.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according claim 25, wherein the method comprises the uninterrupted administration of the estrogenic component during a period of at least 30 days.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the method comprises oral, transdermal, intravenous or subcutaneous administration of the estrogenic component.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the method comprises oral administration.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the estrogenic component is administered in an amount of at least 1 μg per kg of bodyweight per day.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the estrogen-sensitive tumours are selected from the group consisting of breast cancer and uterine cancer.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, comprising co-administration of an aromatase inhibitor.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of treating or ~~preventing~~ prophylactically treating estrogen-sensitive tumours in a mammal, said estrogen-sensitive tumours being selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, uterine cancer, ovarian cancer, endometriosis, uterine fibroids, benign prostatic hyperplasia and melanoma, comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an estrogenic component as defined in claim 25 in combination with an aromatase inhibitor.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein no more than 3 of R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 are hydrogen atoms;

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein R_3 represents a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein at least 3 of the groups R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 represent hydrogen atoms.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according claim 35, wherein the method comprises the uninterrupted administration of the estrogenic component during a period of at least 30 days.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the method comprises oral, transdermal, intravenous or subcutaneous administration of the estrogenic component.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the method comprises oral administration.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the estrogenic component is administered in an amount of at least 1 μg per kg of bodyweight per day.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the estrogen-sensitive tumours are selected from the group consisting of breast cancer and uterine cancer.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the aromatase inhibitor is co-administered in an effective amount to suppress blood serum 17β-estradiol level to below 10 pg/ml.

45. (Previously Presented) A method of treating estrogen-sensitive tumours in a mammal, said estrogen-sensitive tumours being selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, uterine cancer, ovarian cancer, endometriosis, uterine fibroids, benign prostatic hyperplasia and melanoma, comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an estrogenic component as defined in claim 25.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 45, wherein no more than 3 of R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 are hydrogen atoms;

47. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 45, wherein R_3 represents a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 45, wherein at least 3 of the groups R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 represent hydrogen atoms.

49. (Previously Presented) The method according claim 45, wherein the method comprises the uninterrupted administration of the estrogenic component during a period of at least 30 days.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 45, wherein the method comprises oral, transdermal, intravenous or subcutaneous administration of the estrogenic component.

51. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 50, wherein the method comprises oral administration.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 45, wherein the estrogenic component is administered in an amount of at least 1 μg per kg of bodyweight per day.

53. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 45, wherein the estrogen-sensitive tumours are selected from the group consisting of breast cancer and uterine cancer.

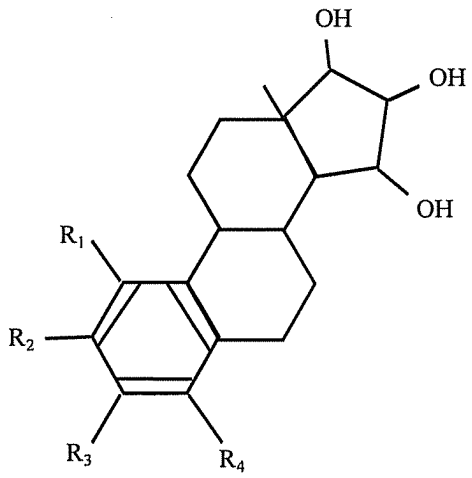
54. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 45, comprising co-administration of an aromatase inhibitor.

55. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition containing:

a. at least 0.01 mg of an aromatase inhibitor;

b. at least 0.05 mg of an estrogenic component selected from the group consisting of:

substances represented by the following formula



in which formula R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 independently are a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group with 1-5 carbon atoms;

precursors capable of liberating a substance according to the aforementioned formula when used in the present method, which precursors are derivatives of the present estrogen substances, wherein the hydrogen atom of at least one of the hydroxyl groups has been substituted by an acyl radical of a hydrocarbon carboxylic, sulfonic acid or sulfamic acid of 1-25 carbon atoms; tetrahydrofuranyl; tetrahydropyranyl; or a straight or branched chain glycosydic residue containing 1-20 glycosidic units per residue; and mixtures of one or more of the aforementioned substances and/or precursors; and

c. a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

56. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 55, wherein no more than 3 of R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 are hydrogen atoms.

57. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 55, wherein R_3 represents a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group.

58. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 55, wherein at least 3 of the groups R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 represent hydrogen atoms.

59. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 55, wherein the composition contains aromatase inhibitor in an amount equivalent to an oral dosage of at least 0.05 mg anastrozole.

60. (Withdrawn) A drug delivery system comprising a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 55, said drug delivery system being selected from the group consisting of an oral dosage unit; an injectable fluid; a suppository; a pessary; a gel; and a cream.

61. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical kit comprising one or more dosage units containing at least 0.05 mg of the estrogenic component as defined in claim 55 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient; and one or more dosage units containing at least 0.01 mg of an aromatase inhibitor, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

62. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical kit according to claim 61, wherein the dosage units are oral dosage units.